

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 8/20/2012
Time: 12:00 p.m.

PILGRIM RIVER AND KUZITRIN RIVER REOPEN TO NET FISHING

Sockeye salmon escapement past the Pilgrim River weir has improved since the closure to net fishing two weeks ago. The escapement goal at Salmon Lake is 4,000 to 8,000 sockeye salmon observed by aerial survey and is expected to be met.

Net fishing is again open on the Pilgrim River and Kuzitrin River until further notice.

High water has affected almost all salmon escapement counting projects in Norton Sound the past week. At the Pilgrim River weir high water resulted in the weir being opened and fishing passing upstream without being able to be counted for nearly two days. Likewise at the other towers and weirs there were some days where counting was not possible or there was difficulty indentifying salmon by species. Therefore, all escapement counts should be considering minimum counts.

Here are the escapement counts in Norton Sound.

North River: 960 kings, 7,000 chums, 140,000 pinks, 1,600 silvers
Unalakleet River: 740 kings, 64,000 chums, 680,000 pinks, 5,800 silvers
Shaktoolik River: 1,000 kings, 40,000 chums, 427,000 pinks, 2,600 silvers
Inglutalik River: 1,100 kings, 32,000 chums, 85,000 pinks, 500 silvers
Kwiniuk River: 5,500 chums, 380,000 pinks, 230 silvers
Niukluk River: 18,000 chums, 235,000 pinks, 100 silvers
Nome River: 1,500 chums, 105,000 pinks, 100 silvers
Pilgrim River: 16,000 chums, 45,000 pinks, 6,200 sockeyes